The City of Kopana A Historical Centre

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Summary:
The present-day Koppal, ancient Kopana, is described as the "Gateway to the South" and the Indrakeela Parvata of Mahabharata times, Two Ashokan edicts are found here. Near Koppal, at Chikka Sindogi 5,534 punch-marked Shatavahana silver coins were found and 'Kupanachama' in Early Kadamba records is identified as this place. Badami Chalukya records are also found in this taluk. Nripatunga mentions Kopana as one of the cardinal points of Kannada core country. Krishna III's commander Shankaraganda built a Jinalaya here. Two Kalachuri records are found at Madiganuru near Koppal. Hoysala Shantala and her brother's son Echiraja also built Jinalayas here, and Kopana was a renewed Jaina pilgrim centre. The place was a centre of activity of Kumara Rama too. The place was under Vijayanagara in the times of Krishnadevaraya and Ramaraya.

Adilshahis called it Muzafar-nagar and Shivaji gave it as a jahgir to one Subhanrao. Haider Ali conquered it and called it Sultangad. After British occupation, there were anti-British risings by one Veerappa and in 1858 Mundargi Bheemrao made it the centre of his revolt. Nizam gave it as jahagir to Salar Jung.

A Shilahara branch has called itself as 'Kopanapura-varadheeshwara'. It was a great Jain& centre, described as having 770 Jinalayas. It was a Veerashaiva centre too, and Holeya Hampiah's record dated 1086 if found here. Famous Itgi temple of the Kalyana Chalukyas is just 20 miles away from the place.